

TAXES

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not get this confused with owning real estate property."

Schenkel said businesses that have equipment that costs under \$80,000 are still required to file the business tangible personal property tax return, however, they will be exempt from paying taxes. Failure to file for the exempt amount will result in a \$25 penalty.

Schenkel said penalties will be applied after Monday, May 16 for late filings.

For more information, call 260-563-0661, ext. 1227 or ext. 293.

Local personal property taxes are also due

Beyond business property taxes, local personal property taxes are also due next month.

Spring and fall property tax statements for 2022 were mailed Tuesday, April 5, said Wabash County Treasurer LuAnn Layman.

Layman said those with an escrow account on their property will receive a statement in the mail with the words "In Escrow" watermark over them.

"Please do not pay this bill as we have also given the information to the lender to pay for you," said Layman.

Spring bills are due by Tuesday, May 10. Taxes that are not paid by the deadline will receive a penalty. One check may be used when paying both spring and fall installments.

Taxpayers may pay in person at the Wabash County Treasurer's Office in the Wabash County Courthouse building on the main floor from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, except for Election Day, Tuesday, May 3, when they will be closed.

Layman said banks that will be collecting property taxes for her office include Bippus State Bank, 106 West St., North Manchester; Crossroads Bank, 1205 Cass St., and 1404 Indiana 114, North Manchester; First Farmers Bank, 1004 Cass St.; First Merchants Bank, 1250 Cass St.; and Flagstar Bank, 841 N. Cass St.

Payment may also be made in the drop box located at the basement entrance of the Wabash County Courthouse.

Payment may also be made through the mail to

Wabash County Treasurer, 1 W. Hill St., Suite 104, Wabash, IN 46992. Postmarks must be on Tuesday, May 10 or before. Taxpayers should enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive a receipt back.

"I would suggest if you mail your payment on the due date that you ask the post office to hand stamp the date. In the past we have had payments that were put in the mailbox on the due date but did not get postmarked until the next day," said Layman.

Tax payments may now be paid with credit cards. Payments made with e-checks are \$1 online per transaction. Payments made with Visa debit card have a \$3.95 per transaction fee. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express credit cards have a 2.65 percent per transaction fee, with a minimum of \$3.95 per transaction. MasterCard and Discover debit cards have a 2.65 percent per transaction fee, also with a minimum of \$3.95 per transaction.

Indiana law requires the county treasurer to add a late payment penalty to the unpaid portions of the amounts due for each installment of property taxes. The penalty will be in the amount of 5 percent of the unpaid tax if the installment is completely paid on or before the 30 days after the due date and property owners are not liable for delinquent property taxes first due and payable in a previous installment for the same parcel.

Layman said taxpayers who did not receive all of their bills should contact the Wabash County Treasurer's Office. For more information, visit www.wabashcounty85.us or call 260-563-0661, ext. 1259.

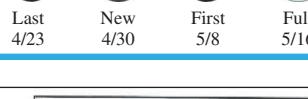
Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

5-Day Weather Summary

	Wednesday Chance Showers 59 / 51		Thursday Showers Likely 69 / 52		Friday Mostly Cloudy 73 / 58		Saturday Partly Cloudy 80 / 62		Sunday Mostly Cloudy 79 / 57
Sun and Moon									
Today's sunset 8:26 p.m. Tomorrow's sunrise 6:57 a.m.									

Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 8:26 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 6:57 a.m.

**Detailed Local Outlook**

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 30% chance of showers, high temperature of 59°, humidity of 50%. Southeast wind 6 to 16 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with a 90% chance of showers, overnight low of 51°. South wind 14 to 18 mph.

SETBACK CHART FOR C-SES. CHART #13.7.2. f.**C-SES PERMITTED IN ZONES A, FR, I**

C-SES Site Acreage Designation Including Road / Drive	Property Line Setback	Residential or Business Structure Setback	Public Facilities, Outdoor Facilities, Parks, Camp Grounds, Recreational, FR District	Screening/ Buffering Setback From Property Line, Roads	Can Waive Setback With Adjoining Participating Land Owner
0 to 2,000 ACRES	100 FT	350 FT	350 FT	25 FT P.L. 25 FT R.R.O.W.	YES
SEC CO RD	65 FT	65 FT	65 FT	25 FT FROM R.R.O.W.	NO
PRI CO RD	95 FT	95 FT	95 FT	25 FT FROM R.R.O.W.	NO
ST RD	105 FT	105 FT	105 FT	25 FT FROM R.R.O.W.	NO
INGRESS EGRESS DRIVE	All ingress/egress drives shall meet/exceed the minimum setback from adjoining property lines				

This chart shows the first part of the updated setbacks in the revised commercial solar ordinance.

SETBACK CHART FOR C-SES, CHART #13.7.2. g.**C-SES PERMITTED IN ZONES A, FR, I**

C-SES Site Acreage Designation Including Road / Drive	Property Line Setback	Residential or Business Structure Setback	Public Facilities, Outdoor Facilities, Parks, Camp Grounds, Recreational, FR District	Secondary County Road	Primary County Road	State Road	Can Waive Setback With Adjoining Participating Land Owner
INVERTER	100 FT	660 FT	660 FT	65 FT	95 FT	105 FT	NO
BATTERY STORAGE	100 FT	1320 FT	1320 FT	65 FT	95 FT	105 FT	NO
SUBSTATION	100 FT	1320 FT	1320 FT	65 FT	95 FT	105 FT	NO
INGRESS EGRESS DRIVE	All ingress/egress drives shall meet/exceed the minimum setback from adjoining property lines						

This chart shows the second part of the updated setbacks in the revised commercial solar ordinance.

SOLAR

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"The other members of the public were opposed. They said they don't want them here. So that was kind of the guidance that we've been getting from the public," said Dawes.

At Monday's commissioners' meeting, Howard said there had been changes to the ordinance passed last year including to "reduce setbacks to a level that companies could at least be interested in talking to us."

"We also made some minor changes to the ordinance," said Howard.

Howard said the revised commercial solar ordinance had passed the plan commission by a vote of 6-0.

"Not all the feelings were the same, but through discussion, we all kind of came to the same conclusion," said Dawes.

The revised ordinance then passed the commissioners unanimously on first reading, with current chairman Barry Eppley abstaining.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

PROPORTIONAL SETBACK CHART

C-Site Acreage Designation Including Road / Drive	Property Line Setback	Residential or Business Structure Setback	Public Facilities, Outdoor Facilities, Parks, Camp Grounds, Recreational, FR District	Solar Farm Layout From Inside Out
0 to 5	30'	500'	500'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
5.1 to 10	60'	540'	540'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
10.1 to 20	90'	625'	625'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
20.1 to 30	120'	730'	730'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
30.1 to 40	150'	800'	800'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
40.1 to 50	180'	885'	885'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
50.1 to 60	210'	970'	970'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
60.1 to 70	240'	1060'	1060'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
70.1 to 80	270'	1145'	1145'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
80.1 to 90	300'	1235'	1235'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
90.1 to 300+	330'	1320'	1320'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
SEC CO RD	65'	65'	65'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
PRI CO RD	95'	95'	95'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
ST RD	105'	105'	105'	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence
FOR ALL ACREAGES AND INGRESS EGRESS DRIVES	CAN WAIVE SETBACK WITH ADJOINING PARTICIPATING LAND OWNER	CAN WAIVE SETBACK WITH ADJOINING PARTICIPATING LAND OWNER	CAN NOT WAIVE SETBACK	Solar Arrays, Access Lane, Visual Buffer, Fence

Provided graphics

For comparison, this chart shows the setback requirements from the original version of the commercial solar ordinance passed in October 2021, which has since been updated.

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Obituaries

Wabash Steel Supply hires Blaine Deeter as sales manager

STAFF REPORT

Wabash Steel Supply has announced the appointment of Blaine Deeter as sales manager. Deeter brings nearly two decades of industrial sales experience to the team, according to chief marketing officer Carrie Vineyard.

"Our company and sales team are growing rapidly so we are excited to have Blaine on board to lead our sales efforts. His experience and leadership will play an essential part in the

continued expansion of the business," said executive vice president Steven Siders.

Wabash Steel Supply is an entity of Gebhart Holdings, a privately held corporation headquartered in Wabash, Indiana. They aim to offer products, solutions, and resources at the highest level to each of the industries that they participate in. Gebhart Holdings business divisions include Recycling; Logistics; Food and Beverage; and Supply and Distribution.



Provided photo

Wabash Steel Supply has announced the appointment of Blaine Deeter as sales manager.

PULSE

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public include a drum circle at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 20 in Petersime Chapel; and an Empty Bowls fundraiser from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23 on the Manchester University Mall. At the annual Empty Bowls fundraising event, the soup will be served in bowls decorated by members of the Manchester University community. Donations will go to Urban Seeds, an Evansville-based nonprofit that works to increase access to nourishing foods in southwest Indiana. The suggested donation is \$5, but larger donations are welcome. During Peace Week, students are also invited to join Pagans of Manchester on Wednesday evening and Thursday's dialogue circle. Led by Education for Conflict Resolution members in the Toyota Round, the dialogue circle is centered on campus sustainability. Friday events include the Faith and Belief luncheon for students, faculty, staff and guests, and a service project at Koinonia, the environmental retreat center owned by Manchester University, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Western square dance lessons offered

Western square dance lessons will be held during the spring this year, beginning on Saturday, April 9 in North Manchester. The lessons are being sponsored by the Belles and Beaus Square Dance Club. The lessons will be open to beginners on Saturday, April 23 in the Scout Hall in Warvel Park, at 7th and Market streets in North Manchester. The square dance lessons will run from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The first lesson is free. Subsequent lessons are \$3 per person. Lessons will move to Sunday afternoons in May and June. Everyone is invited to join the fun – couples and singles, young and older. All are welcome. For more information, call 260-215-3694 or 260-982-2814 or email rjschroll@manchester.edu.

Manchester University professor brings 'Mud & Cloth' to Honeywell Center

Ejenobo "Jena" Oke brings her unique "Mud & Cloth" exhibit to the Clark Gallery in Honeywell Center through Sunday, April 24. Oke is best known as a fiber artist and is an associate professor of art at Manchester University. Her works range from loom-controlled weavings to batik quilts to sculptures that incorporate ceramics, paper, felt and basketry materials.

Manchester Values, Ideas and the Arts series continues

Presentations are at 11 a.m. Mondays in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus unless otherwise noted. All except the "Spaces" concert are free and open to the public. Masks and social distancing are required. Other presentations will also be live-streamed on the Manchester Facebook page. Check the schedule at www.manchester.edu/academics/VIA for updates. April 25 – Mary Miller, CEO and owner

of JANCOA Janitorial Services, will speak in "Dream Big." May 2 – "Trailblazers: Honoring Manchester's First Black Students" is the keynote address on the day Manchester is naming the Academic Center in honor of siblings Martha and Joseph Cunningham. May 9 – Manchester seniors will talk about their senior honors theses.

May 15 at 3 p.m. in Cordier – Violist Derek Reeves performs the world premiere of "Spaces," a concerto composed for him by Professor Debra Lynn, director of choral organizations and vocal studies at Manchester.

Downtown Wabash Sidewalk Clings are now on sale

Spring Sidewalk Clings are now on sale for businesses and individuals to purchase as a way of advertising in downtown Wabash. The clings will be installed by May's First Friday on May 6 through the end of July. Sidewalk Clings are available to purchase through Monday, April 25 at \$55 per cling. Those who order Sidewalk Clings may design their cling in the dimensions of 24 inches wide by 17 inches tall. To order, visit DowntownWabash.org/product/sidewalk-cling.

GWC, Manchester University to host author, speaker Mary Miller

Grow Wabash County (GWC) and Manchester University's Arthur L. Gilbert School of Business are partnering to bring author, business owner and motivational speaker, Mary Miller to Wabash County. Miller will facilitate an afternoon workshop entitled "Course Corrections: Crucial Choices that Determine Direction and Destiny" at 1 p.m. Monday, April 25, in the GWC conference room, 214 S. Wabash St. This event is free for Grow Wabash County investors to attend and \$15 for non-investors. To register, visit www.growwabashcounty.com/millerworkshop or email marketing@growwabashcounty.com.

Manchester University offers the Theatre Odds and Ends Workshop on Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 in the Parkview Ballroom at the Eagles Theater in Wabash. Gabrielle McAfee lead a workshop on special effects and stage makeup at 6 p.m. Friday, April 29, followed at 9 p.m. by a workshop on distressing costumes with theater director Angelina Funk. Events set for Saturday, April 30 include a tour of the Eagles Theater stage from 1 to 2 p.m.; a focus and movement workshop with Kira Lace Hawkins from 2 to 4 p.m.; a dance technique and musical theatre dance audition technique with Heather Clossen from 4 to 6 p.m.; and a monologue workshop with Funk from 7 to 10 p.m. The workshops are free and open to anyone of high school age and up. Registration is required by Wednesday, April 27 by emailing agfunk@manchester.edu.

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Wabash softball rolls over Marion, 18-4, on Friday for 1st win of season

Wabash followed up with their second victory of the season against Southern Wells on Saturday

By CLAY MAXFIELD
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

Rain, high winds and Marion Giants weren't enough to slow down Wabash on Friday, April 15 as Apache softball routed the competition, 18-4 as they went on to score runs in all five innings while tallying 15 hits in the win.

Wabash followed up their win on Friday, April 15 with their second victory of the season against Southern Wells on Saturday, April 16 when they overtook the Raiders in game one of the day, 23-7.

For Bob Stambazze, Wabash's win was a culmination of pieces of their game finally coming together to nab their first win of the season

"I just think today we come out, we're a little more relaxed, both teams looking for their first win of the season," Stambazze said. "Kids came out aggressive and knew what they had to do and played some smart softball."

"I'm really proud. Lataya (Judy) threw a really nice game, Maddie (French) caught a good game behind the plate and so we start putting the pieces to the puzzle together and it's starting to make a really nice picture."

The Apaches took a 3-2 lead after the first inning when Lataya Judy hit a line drive to right field, resulting in a double and Wabash's first score of the game while their bats came alive in the following inning when Olivia Braun doubled and drove in two of their five runs in the second.

Montana Judy led Wabash with four hits and three runs batted in (RBI) while Ceyonna Hubbard notched three hits and three RBIs of her own.

Lataya Judy held serve on the mound with 9 strikeouts in the win but as a freshman, Stambazze feels his pitcher is rounding into form with just four varsity games under her belt thus far.

"The biggest thing that Lataya does is throw strikes. Any coach loves a pitcher that throws strikes. If they're going to hit the ball fine, we gotta back her up and that's one thing that we talk to our kids about is she's going to throw strikes. She's learned to mix speeds a little bit more. ... Really proud of her effort," Stambazze said.

As a whole, Stambazze believes



Photo by Clay Maxfield / Plain Dealer

Lataya Judy held serve on the mound with 9 strikeouts in the win.

that the work the Apaches have put in during practice is beginning to pay off.

"Every player gets about 150-200 swings a day. With the young team we have, we feel that it's really important for us to learn how to swing the bat because you only get three swings so you gotta go up there, swing the bat, and then try to push everything else defensively," he said.

Against Southern Wells on Saturday, April 16 Wabash lit up the scoreboard in the second inning when they tallied eight runs while being led by Montana

Judy's two hits and two RBIs.

The fifth inning served as the biggest highlight of the day in which Wabash couldn't miss at the plate as Lataya Judy hit a line drive to right field, driving in three runs in the process as the Apaches put the finishing touches on their road victory.

Wabash notched 11 hits in their second win of the season versus the Raiders.

Clay Maxfield, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

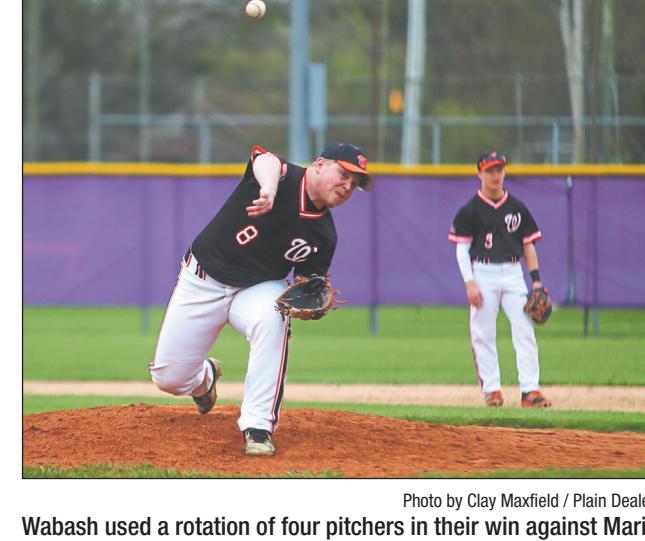


Photo by Clay Maxfield / Plain Dealer
Wabash used a rotation of four pitchers in their win against Marion, including Colten Learned.

Apaches make quick work of Marion Giants

Wabash will travel Friday to Madison-Grant before hosting Eastbrook for a doubleheader Saturday

By CLAY MAXFIELD
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

In their back-to-back wins, the offense has been the Apaches' strong suit as they've outscored their opponents 27-8 while racking up 21 hits.

Wabash used a rotation of four pitchers in their win against Marion but was led by Colten Learned and Chayden Beeks who combined for 11 strikeouts.

Beeks, who has appeared in three games is currently tallying the second-most strikeouts with 14 while Andrew Dillon leads the team with 17.

Grayson Harner and Trevor Daughtry put the game away for good in the top of the fifth after they both hit back-to-back grounders to first base and drove in Wabash's twelfth and thirteenth run of the game.

In their 12-run rout, Wabash marked their seventh season in a row in which they have defeated Marion with the Apaches' last loss coming to the Giants in 2014.

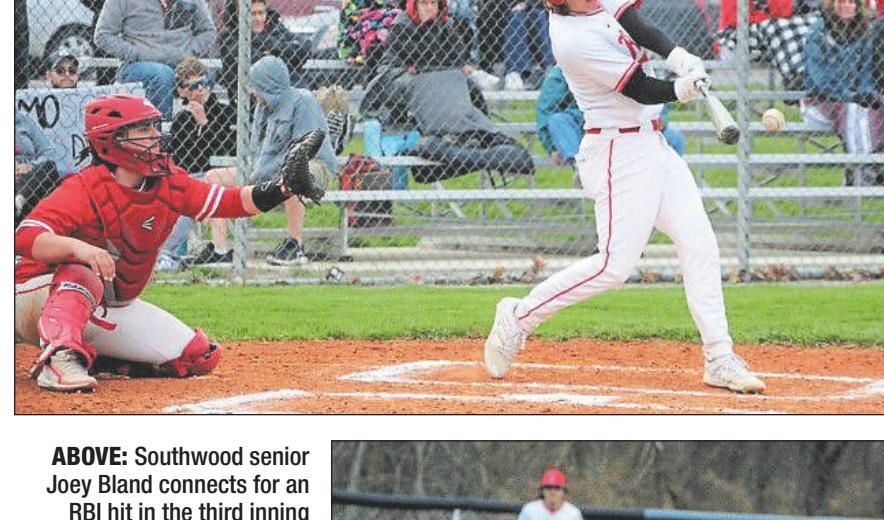
While operating as one of their top pitchers on the mound, Beeks is also leading the team from the batter's box with an average of .545 along with six hits, three RBIs and two runs.

Grayson Harner and Keaton Fields both notched one hit and three runs batted in (RBI) while Brayton Eis finished with two hits and an RBI as well.

In the top of the third, Wabash blew the game open with five runs including doubles by Chayden Beeks and Blake Smith while Justin Booth tripped on a fly ball to left field for another Apache score.

Clay Maxfield, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

SOUTHWOOD VARSITY BASEBALL DEFEATED BY MISSISSINEWA 24-8 ON FRIDAY, APRIL 15

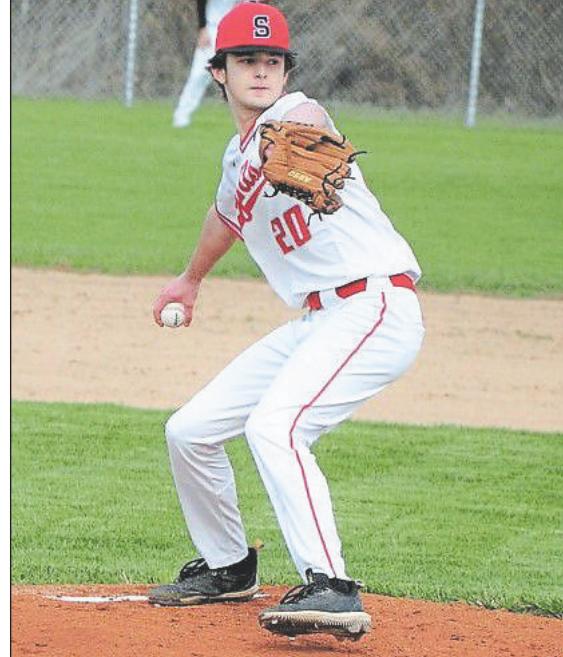


ABOVE: Southwood senior Joey Bland connects for an RBI hit in the third inning against the visiting Mississinewa Indians on Friday, April 15. Ole Miss scored early and often, winning in five innings 24-8.

RIGHT: Knight's starter Blayne Hamilton delivers the first pitch on Friday, April 15 against visiting Mississinewa.

The Indians jumped quickly on Southwood's pitching staff scoring 12 runs in the first ten runs in the first en route to a win over host Southwood 24-8.

Photos by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer



LEFT: Apaches junior hurler Justin Booth delivers during game action Monday, April 11 against Oak Hill.

BELLOW: Booth connects at the plate as well, in the first inning at Rood Field. The Golden Eagles would prove to be too much as they notched a 14-0 victory.

Photos by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer



Glib food comment eats at woman who's battled weight

DEAR ABBY: I had weight-loss surgery three years ago and lost 134 pounds. Two years later, I traded addictions and became a problem drinker. During this time I met a man, but my drinking came between us and we broke up. I stopped drinking three months ago. He contacted me and, when he found out I had quit drinking, we had lunch and talked and we are now dating again.

After a week of dating, he said, "I notice you are eating more than when we dated before. Have you stretched out your stomach?" I said, "No, because I'm no longer drinking, I now eat three meals a day." He said, "I sure don't want you to gain back all that weight you lost!"

My feelings are very hurt and I'm even a bit angry. I really do like him. What should I say to him that will convey my feelings? I want to stand up for myself without being crass. — Trying Again In Arkansas

DEAR TRYING: The next time you are face-to-face, say, "I would like to revisit something you said to me recently. You said, 'Have you stretched out your stomach? I sure don't want you to gain back all that weight you lost!' It was really hurtful. Surely you know I don't want to gain back all the weight either, nor do I intend to. But if eating healthfully means I'll carry a few more pounds than I did when I was drinking, you will either have to accept it or I will have to stop seeing you."

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is having a small wedding. I have one sister that my daughter and I speak with who is invited to the wedding. I have another sister who hasn't been in contact with my daughter in 20 years. We have minimal contact.

The invited sister is now threatening to give her invitation to my other sister!

Have you ever heard of such a thing? She feels that no matter what, family should be invited, and she has taken it upon herself to invite our other sister to the wedding. How do I handle this situation? — Mother Of The Bride

DEAR MOTHER: Tell the sister you are still speaking to that when an invitation is sent, it is intended only for the individual whose name appears on the envelope. Contact the sister you speak to RARELY and explain that your daughter's wedding will be a small one, and since she hasn't been close to your daughter in 20 years, she is not on the guest list.

If that doesn't do the trick and she crashes the wedding, don't make a scene. Seat her in the back and explain politely that because she wasn't invited, no accommodation has been made for her at the reception. Focus on your daughter on her big day and avoid any backstage drama.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 69 and a retired military man. My wife passed away almost two years ago. I'm very fond of a single neighbor who is 30 and has two children. She has been inviting me for supper at her house at least three times a week and when I leave, we hug. I'd like to kiss her but I don't know if I should ask first or tell her I'm getting attached to her. How do I find out if she has feelings for me? — Puzzled In The South

DEAR PUZZLED: A way to do that would be to say, "I'd like to kiss you. How do you feel about that?" Then be prepared for the answer either way.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

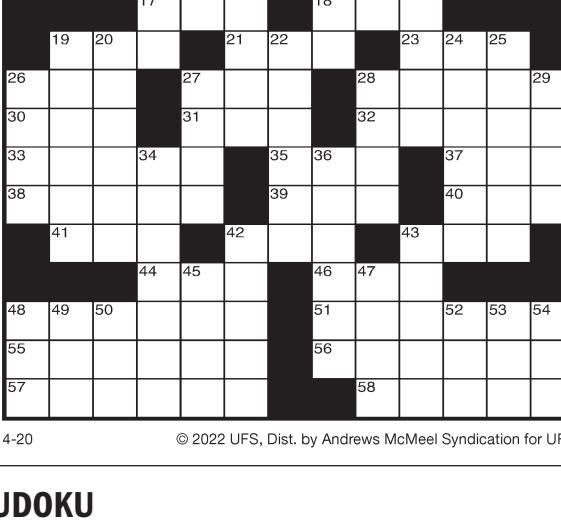
ACROSS

- 1 Pursue
- 6 Warmed up
- 12 Work fast
- 14 Colorful percher
- 15 Reddish antelope
- 16 Aussie city
- 17 Road coating
- 18 Hearth residue
- 19 Mass transit vehicle
- 21 Gesture
- 23 Not their
- 26 Dull routine
- 27 Mil. rank
- 28 Let out, maybe
- 30 Qty.
- 31 Freudian subjects
- 32 City near Phoenix
- 33 Fish basket
- 35 Tentacle
- 37 Antique
- 38 The "k" in 24-k
- 39 Spanish article

DOWN

- 9 Drag behind
- 10 New Haven student
- 11 Cozy room
- 13 Got paid
- 19 Raw deal (2 wds.)
- 20 Says
- 22 Reduced (2 wds.)
- 24 Level best
- 25 Instant —
- 26 Magazine stand
- 27 Gold-coated
- 28 PIN prompters
- 29 Overhaul
- 34 Goes for pizza, say (2 wds.)
- 36 Prepares coffee beans
- 42 More helpful
- 43 Faint
- 45 Work, as yeast
- 47 Killer whale
- 48 Hem and —
- 49 Make a mistake
- 50 French monarch
- 52 Old-time slugger
- 53 Dell or Gateway wares
- 54 Retiring

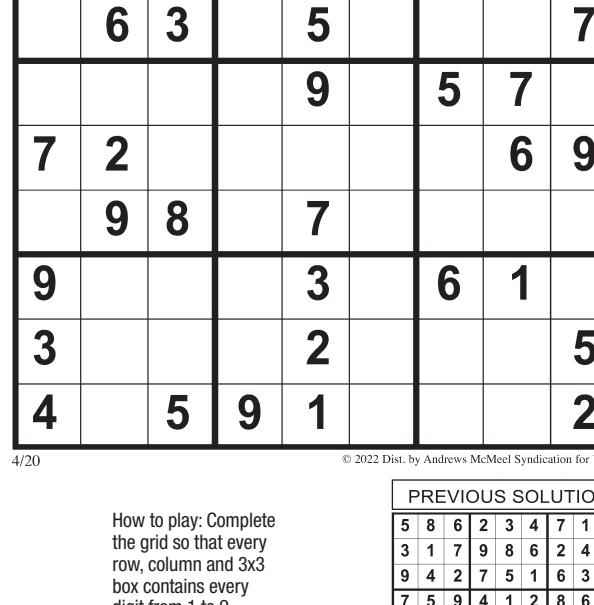
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

5	8	6	2	3	4	7	1	9
3	1	7	9	8	6	2	4	5
9	4	2	7	5	1	6	3	8
7	5	9	4	1	2	8	6	3
8	2	1	3	6	9	5	7	4
4	6	3	8	7	5	9	2	1
2	3	4	5	9	7	1	8	6
1	7	5	6	4	8	3	9	2
6	9	8	1	2	3	4	5	7

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Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

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U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-4814 <http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9467 Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9841 h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the news-paper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

2 Timothy 2:22

It's easy to blame high gas prices on presidents, but it's not that simple

With fuel prices lingering near all-time highs in the United States, plenty of finger-pointing has been going around as to who is at fault.

Much of that has been aimed at President Joe Biden.

"This is a result of Biden policies, and everyone knows it," said U.S. Sen. James Lankford. "They (Democrats) can try to change the subject all they want to, but everyone knows this is a direct result of the Biden policies."

Second District Congressman Markwayne Mullin, who hopes to succeed retiring U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, echoed those sentiments in a joint statement with fellow U.S. Reps. Steve Scalise and Jeff Duncan.

"President Biden's anti-American energy policies have now caused American families to pay more for gas than at any other time in U.S. history," they said.

Past presidents such as George W. Bush and Barack Obama faced similar critiques when gas prices rose during their tenures.

But the truth is that American presidents have little impact on gasoline prices. Instead, fuel prices rise and fall due to conditions American politicians can

do little about.

From the American Petroleum Institute: "The cost of crude oil is the largest factor in the retail price of gasoline. Because of this, changes in the retail price of gasoline typically track changes in the global crude oil price."

The current surge in gas prices can be linked to a few overriding factors.

When the COVID-19 pandemic first struck, demand tanked, and so did prices. With prices falling below \$2 a gallon domestically, oil producers here and abroad cut production.

Demand for fuel surged once economies began to crawl out of the worst of the pandemic's early days. Vaccines gave more people confidence to shop, travel and otherwise resume normal activities.

But demand outpaced production, and supply chain disruptions have left oil producers with a shortage of rigs, trucks and workers. Ramping back up hasn't been easy, and some producers, notably those in OPEC countries, have been reluctant to increase production very much.

Upward pressure on gas prices increased following Russia's

invasion of Ukraine. Russia is one of the world's largest oil producers, accounting for 10 percent of the world's supply.

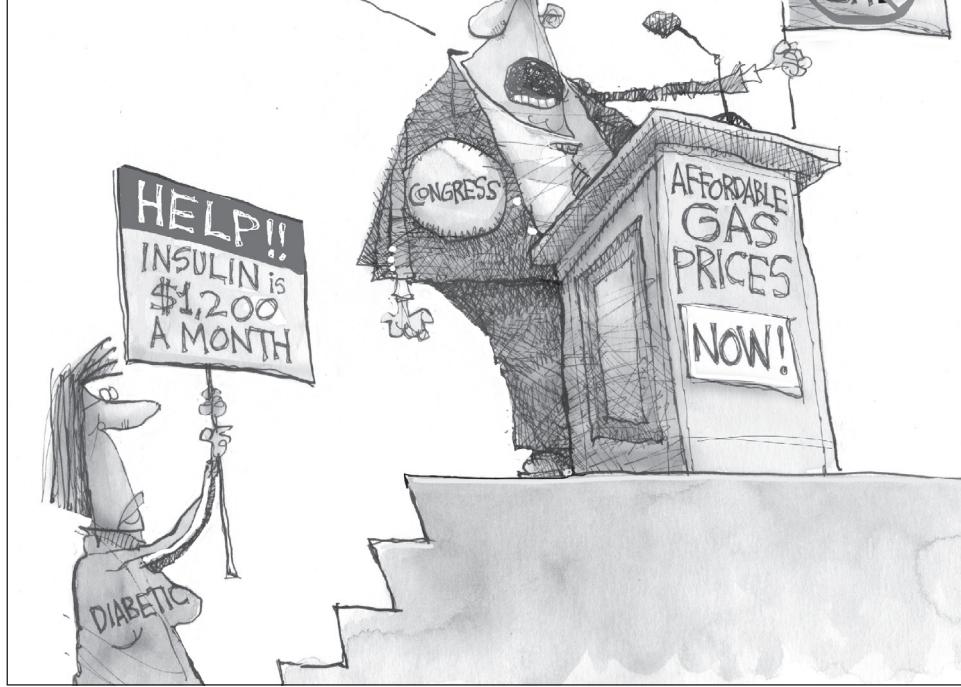
The U.S. and much of the world stopped buying Russian oil after the invasion, further constricting oil supplies, which pushed gas prices even higher.

The American Petroleum Institute acknowledged these factors but cited "policy uncertainty" from the Biden administration. Biden has put a moratorium on new federal public lands oil and gas leases, and the administration has committed to shifting U.S. energy toward renewables.

But domestic oil production has been rising steadily throughout Biden's tenure as president. Additionally, about 9,000 unused federal public lands oil and gas leases remain untapped. While none of those are guaranteed to produce, the lack of activity there guarantees that production from these leases will be zero.

Blaming high gas prices on a political rival is not new, but it's also misplaced. There may be solutions to high gas prices, but they remain largely undiscovered or ignored.

This editorial was first published in the Tulsa World.



Hospitals to legislature: Drop dead

Late last year, Indiana's Senate pro tempore and Speaker of the House wrote an open letter to leaders of the healthcare industry, urging them to craft a plan to reduce costs.

Michael Hicks
This was a particularly smart, pragmatic and principled approach by Senator Bray and Representative Huston to seek compromise in one of the more vexing challenges faced by the state. At issue is the broad monopolization of hospital services and the resulting hospital prices that make Indiana a national outlier for healthcare costs.

The deadline for the plan was April 1, and we now have an answer from the hospitals. In an Op-Ed couched in careful, lawyerly prose it said to the Indiana legislature, "Drop Dead."

The Op-Ed was signed by eight hospital CEOs who again denied that any sort of hospital pricing problem exists. It was a stunning example of falsities and misrepresentation that should enrage Hoosiers of every stripe. I will do my best to expose just a few.

The hospital CEOs began with a laundry list of woeful complaints. They first grumbled of skyrocketing costs for travel nurses and drug prices. As it turns out, there are quantities of data on both of these issues. And, you guessed it, the facts

don't match the hospital CEO narrative.

The average advertised wage for a 'Travel Nurse' with an RN from January 1st to March 31st of this year was \$36.00 an hour. But, over the same three months of 2020, the advertised pay averaged \$40.00 per hour, and that doesn't even include an adjustment for inflation. Today, Hoosier travel nurses are paid one dollar less per hour than the same RNs nationwide. These data are from help wanted advertisements listed by a commercial aggregator of these data.

One might suppose that the CEOs of some of the highest-priced hospitals in the world would pay their key staff a bit better. But, we live in a state with highly monopolized healthcare, whose 'not-for-profit' hospitals don't feel market pressure to compete on wages.

The claim about drug prices is also a clear misrepresentation, or at least according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, who maintain price index data. The fact is that over the past two years, drug prices have risen slower than inflation as a whole and at just about half the rate of hospital prices.

The hospital CEOs also blamed insurers for rising prices, claiming that insurance premiums are increasing at a pace greater than the associated medical expenditures. Again, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics maintains data on health insurance and health-

care pricing. You guessed it; the Producer Price Index for health insurance has risen more slowly than the Producer Price Index for hospital care over the past two years.

It is almost like the hospital CEOs don't really have command of the facts.

Not surprisingly, the CEOs also complained in advance about the next Rand Corporation study that is due to be released in a few weeks.

They grumble that the data is now two years old, thus out of date. The problem with that complaint is that the hospitals themselves have control of the data. If they wanted a 'real-time' comparison, they could do so tomorrow. Perhaps – and I'm just guessing here – they don't really want real-time price comparisons.

The hospital CEOs touted their 'new' models of healthcare, which they call 'bundled' services. These are being offered to schools and other employers directly.

We would do well to be suspicious of these behaviors. Historically, Indiana's not-for-profit hospitals have been purchasing medical offices of providers to control patient flows into their hospitals. This acquisition of 'upstream' activities, such as a physician's office, is not a new innovation.

This is a tactic right out of the 'robber baron' days that led to the first big anti-trust cases in the U.S.

Moreover, the potential for monopolization through the bundling of services is specifically covered in

detail by the Department of Justice in their anti-trust guidance. In a better world, hospitals would proceed cautiously with bundled services. Perhaps this is the sort of hubris is what you get after more than a decade of uncontested mergers and acquisitions.

The Op-Ed piece went on to claim that the market for healthcare is working well and that focus should be diverted from their operations to insurers, drug manufacturers, and the poor health of Hoosiers. From their standpoint, that is a natural thing to say. These companies have amassed financial holdings of more than \$17.7 billion, mostly tucked into Hedge Funds and Money Markets.

In the pandemic year of 2020, these hospitals earned a whopping \$2.395 billion in profits, making it one fantastic year to be a not-for-profit entity. It is useful by comparison to know that Indiana's hospital industry in 2020 earned a profit rate that was three times that of Walmart. The most profitable of them all, IU Health, earned a 16.1 percent profit rate in 2020. Walmart earned just 3.6 percent in its best quarter of that year.

To be fair, in the eyes of these hospital CEOs the healthcare marketplace couldn't be working any better. History provides precisely zero examples of monopolists complaining about their markets.

I haven't covered all the deception in the hospital CEOs Op-Ed piece. That

LETTERS

The Russian pariah

Putin is Hitler reincarnated. Hitler tried to create a German empire throughout Europe during World War II. Putin wants to recreate a Russian empire in Europe starting with the invasion of Ukraine. Unfortunately, the democracies are currently showing similar military wariness tendencies as the Allies showed against Hitler's initial invasions.

Putin thought he would overrun Ukraine, but he is meeting fierce resistance from the Ukrainians. Increased military preparedness by NATO, especially in Poland, and severe economic sanctions might deter Putin from his expansionist policy, but it will not save Ukraine. NATO and the U.S. should have sent military forces into western Ukraine. Out of fear of Russia the Biden administration balked at transferring Polish aircraft to Ukraine. We let down Ukraine, and this will embolden Putin.

The free world must continue to support Ukraine with military and economic assistance, and sanctions must be maintained against Russia until it leaves Ukraine. Subsequently, Russia should be subjected to trillions of dollars in war reparations starting with their seized assets; and Putin and his henchmen must be charged with war crimes.

The U.S. has to reevaluate its national security posture versus Russia.

Russia's standing among countries has been irreparably damaged, and Putin and Russia are considered pariahs of the world and the enemies of mankind.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, New Hampshire

What made us great?

Americans like to call this the greatest nation the world has ever known. Let's remember what made it great.

America became great because she granted land to most of her early citizens. With land, individuals and families were assured of never, or rarely, staying in debt. Being credit-worthy meant being free. The land contained resources – water, minerals, timber, transit rights and sub-parcels – that could be sold when needed to cover debts. In time, land became available to all to a degree.

America also became great because of the practices of our ancestors. Those whose blood we have in us were animated by a code of ethics that inspired them to endless economic inventiveness, regular civic participation, family solidarity, educational ambition, and spiritual backbone.

They believed they had to honor their economic contracts, their political promises, their vows to spouses, their commitments to justice and heaven, and the study of law and democracy. All these things were non-negotiable. Doing them made them unstoppable.

Families, neighbors, workplaces, marketplaces, the electorate, classrooms, courtrooms and their God depended upon them to do what they said would do. Who does not follow, support, and lay down his life for one who keeps promises?

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah

would take too much space. But, to be fair and balanced, they did have at least one good idea that I think the legislature should seriously consider. These CEOs noted that public health spending in Indiana lagged the nation, and they urged the legislature to spend more on public health. This is a fine idea, and I urge both Senator Bray and Representative Huston to take steps to close the gap. Furthermore, I know precisely where the legislature can find the tax revenue to fund public health. A modest 11 percent tax on annual hospital profits would boost Hoosier public health spending to the national average.

That still leaves a whopping \$17 billion in assets held by these 'not-for-profit' hospitals. Nearly all of this was accrued from monopoly profits over the past decade.

I'd like to see a 90 percent tax on those windfall profits; after all, these profits came from Hoosier families and businesses. To put it in context, that'd be more than enough to fund Indiana state government for more than a year. But even that won't be sufficient to end the hospital monopoly problem.

Having been told to "Drop Dead," the Indiana General Assembly now begins the long process of unwinding Indiana's hospital monopolies. This will take time and political courage, but it just might restore some sanity to healthcare pricing in our state.

Michael Hicks may be reached by email at cberdirector@bsu.edu.

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NOTICE OF SUIT
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Moving beyond masks: Biden toils to put pandemic behind him

By ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden's administration has been working for months to prepare people to rethink their personal risk calculations as the nation gets used to the idea of living with an endemic COVID-19.

But that measured approach disappeared abruptly when a federal judge on Monday threw out the federal requirement to mask up when using mass transit. The ruling added to the urgency of the messaging challenge as the administration tries to move past the virus in the lead-up to midterm elections.

After the government last month eased indoor mask-wearing guidelines for the vast majority of Americans — even in schools — masking on planes was one of the last redoubts of the national COVID-19 restrictions. Now, as the policy falls, the administration turns to accelerating its efforts to provide the best advice for millions making their own personal safety decisions in the still-dangerous pandemic.

It's both a public health imperative and an important shift in emphasis for Biden's political future.

"There is an opportunity now, instead of saying this is a disappointing ruling, they could say this is a good time to have a conversation about how we move forward in this pandemic about risk calculation," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease physician and a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

"With COVID-19, I think we're at a point with immunity from prior infections, vaccines, home tests and treatments that we can start to manage this the way we manage other infectious diseases," he said.

Biden himself went all-in on flexibility Tuesday when asked if Americans should mask up on planes.

"That's up to them," Biden declared during a visit to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. But his own White House nonetheless continues to require face coverings for those traveling with him on Air Force One, citing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The shift toward less formal regulation was actually previewed in a 100-page plan released by the White House coronavirus response team in February. Back then, administration officials had hoped that children under 5 would be eligible for vaccination by now — a move that would have eased the concern of millions of parents and provided the umbrella of protection to nearly everyone in the U.S. who wanted it.

Monday's court order lifting the mask mandate came at a crossroads in the nation's pandemic response, just shy of a year to the day from when all American adults were eligible for vaccination against COVID-19. The ruling sent government agencies and the White House scrambling to comply, but that didn't stop momentary confusion among travelers as airlines and airports dropped their mask requirements — in some cases mid-flight.

The administration stressed that Americans should still comply with CDC recommendations to wear face coverings, even in the absence of the mandate. Biden's press secretary, Jen Psaki, said as

much just an hour before his "up to them" comment.

"The CDC continues to advise and recommend masks on airplanes. We're abiding by the CDC recommendations, the president is, and we would advise all Americans to do that," she said.

Psaki on Tuesday indicated that while the administration was disappointed with the ruling, it didn't rank with Congress' inability to reach a compromise on additional COVID funding to purchase booster shots and antiviral treatments.

"Those are our biggest concerns," she said.

Face-covering requirements, which have proven to lower the risks of infection, have grown increasingly political in the U.S. over the last year, particularly as cases and severe outcomes have fallen.

The lingering mandate for public transit and air travel served as a daily reminder for many people that the

pandemic they badly wanted to be over was still affecting their lives, even if vaccinations and antiviral treatments had dramatically lowered their risk. For others who are still fearful of the virus, each roll-back of pandemic restrictions has sparked fresh disquiet — and in some cases criticism of the Biden administration.

"There are still a lot of people in this country who still want to have masks in place — either they have immunocompromised relatives, they have kids under 5, whatever it may be," said Psaki.

Monday's court ruling hastened an outcome that was likely coming in weeks anyway. Many administration officials believed that last week's 15-day extension of the mask order to May 3 would be the last. The public health agency had asked for the additional time to monitor whether a recent rise in infections would result in increased hospitalizations or

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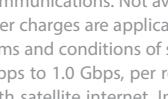
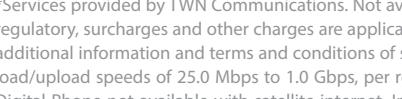
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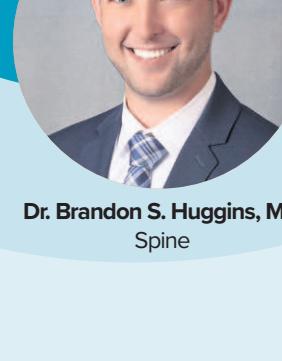
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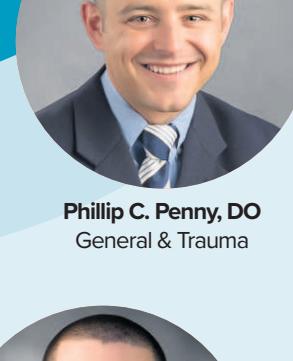
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Wabash Plain Dealer

Associated Press

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deaths. So far it hasn't.

SUBSTANCES

From page A1

communications specialist Becca Andrews.

"In the past couple of years, Josiah White's has experienced a significant increase in requests from parents who have a child struggling with a substance use disorder," said Andrews, on Thursday, April 14. "Parkview Health also approached Josiah White's about their need for a residential recovery program for youth to come to following medical detox. With Parkview's support, Josiah White's began taking active steps to make such a program a reality."

Andrews said on Monday, March 28, Josiah White's launched the new Recovery Services program which specifically serves adolescents and their families who are being impacted by a SUD. "Josiah White's is honored and humbled to serve the

needs of young people whose lives are being impacted by addiction," said vice president and executive director of Recovery Services Matt Riggle. "It will be our privilege to partner with other providers throughout Indiana as well as those who have courageously worked their own recovery to walk beside these young people as they begin their journey toward physical, emotional, and spiritual healing."

Andrews said the Recovery Services team is looking "to meet young people where they are, help them recognize their inherent worth and enable them to discover the new possibilities that come from the courage to choose recovery."

To make a referral, email katie.davidson@whitesrfs.org or call 260-563-1158 ext. 3004.

Bowen Center to offer Narcan in Wabash

WPD public information

officer Capt. Matt A. Benson said just during the last year, they had responded to 17 calls for overdose, two of those being fatalities.

Benson said their officers have used the opioid overdose treatment Narcan in the past, but that there was "no documentation on how many times we have used it and or have been successful."

On Monday, April 19, Bowen Center public relations and marketing manager Claudia Johnson said their Wabash office, 255 N. Miami St., now offers "free, confidential access" to Naloxone kits.

Naloxone, sometimes referred to as Narcan, is a medication designed to help rapidly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

"The Center is partnering with Overdose Lifeline and a local nurse who is volunteering her time to ensure the box remains stocked with single-dose kits for the com-

munity," said Johnson.

Bowen Center Wabash director Danielle Gargiulo said anyone struggling with opioid addiction or who has a family member, friend or co-worker struggling with an opioid addiction to take Naloxone kits to have on hand in the event of a suspected overdose.

"The medication is safe and will not harm someone if administered who is not experiencing an opioid overdose, but it can reverse the effects almost immediately," said Gargiulo.

Johnson said access to Naloxone for opioid overdose rescue is a priority for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) response to the opioid crisis.

"Widespread dispensing of Naloxone to persons in treatment for substance use disorder increases the likelihood that an opioid overdose in their community will be attended to," said

Bowen Recovery Center in Fort Wayne director Carolyn Warner-Greer, M.D. "While we routinely prescribe Naloxone rescue kits to any person who may be around opioid use, we cannot have too much of this medication in our community."

According to the HHS, more than 760,000 people have died since 1999 from a drug overdose, two out of three drug overdose deaths in 2018 involved an opioid and rural counties are nearly three times more likely to be ranked low dispensing than metropolitan counties.

"The goal is to save lives and reduce deaths by overdose and we hope the community will come to Bowen Center ... in Wabash to take what they need any time of the day or night. The NaloxBox is a self-dispensing box mounted outside of our Community Room entrance. Each kit contains simple instructions to follow," said

Gargiulo.

Gargiulo said the Nalox-Box is like a free book or food box "with easy access to anyone in need."

"Statistically rural counties like Wabash dispense Naloxone at a much lower rate than metropolitan counties. This is concerning when drug addiction is so prevalent everywhere and two out of three drug overdose deaths in 2018 involved an opioid. Naloxone is a medication designed to give individuals another chance at recovery," said Gargiulo. "I am excited we can offer this to our community and truly hope it does save lives and gives mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends another chance to break away from their addiction and onto a healthier life."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

VOTING

From page A1

Bond St., North Manchester; Lagro Town Hall, 230 Buchanan St., Lagro; and Pleasant Township Fire Department, 10459 N Ogden Road, Laketon.

All registered Indiana voters are eligible to vote absentee in-person. Voters who choose to vote by mail may request an absentee ballot online at www.indianavoters.com or from their county clerk's office. Requests for absentee ballots by mail must be delivered by Thursday, April 21.

More than half of Indiana counties now offer vote centers, including Wabash County, which allow voters to cast a ballot at any polling location in their county. Hoosier voters may visit www.indianavoters.com to view a sample ballot and check their voting locations and hours for early voting. A valid photo ID is required to vote absentee in-person.

MicroVote agreement extended, poll worker meal allowance increased

At Monday's Wabash

County Board of Commissioners meeting, Wabash County Clerk Lori Draper presented two items for consideration.

The first was an annual renewal agreement with MicroVote.

On March 28, the Wabash County Election Board met in Draper's office to prepare for the primary election. Draper said an important part of the meeting was the testing of the voting machines. Draper said the Wabash County Election Board tests the voting machines before every local election. Representing the Wabash County Democratic Party was Nancy Whitmire and representing the Wabash County Republican Party was Nan Rowe. Draper said the direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting machines, the MicroVote Infinity and the card reader for the absentee vote by mail ballots were all successfully tested.

At Monday's meeting, the MicroVote contract was renewed unanimously.

The second item was a request by Draper to increase the amount allocated per poll worker to buy them food on Election Day.

Draper said they regu-

larly serve meals to the poll workers. In 2008, the amount spent per poll worker was raised from \$13 to \$20. Draper asked for that to be raised from \$20 to \$25 for this year's primary election.

"We use less poll workers with the vote centers so this is not going to be an increase in the budget," said Draper. "Groceries have gone up a lot."

The commissioners then also approved this request unanimously.

Candidates on the ballot

Draper said the Tuesday, May 3 primary elections "are for the two major parties of the state of Indiana to choose their candidates."

Draper said voters must declare themselves to be either a member of the Republican or Democratic parties to receive a ballot.

The following candidates are on this year's primary election ballot for Wabash County voters:

■ U.S. Senator: Republican Todd Young and Democrat Thomas M. McDermott, Jr.

■ U.S. Representative: Republican Jackie Walorski and Democrat Paul D. Steury.

■ State Senator District

17: Republican Andy Zay.

■ State Representative District 22 (Pleasant Township candidate): Republicans Curt Nisly and Craig Snow, and Democrat Dee M. Moore.

■ State Representative District 50 (Wabash County except for Pleasant Township): Republicans Daniel J. (Dan) Leonard and Lorissa Sweet, and Democrat Tammy L. (Tammy) Ingalls.

■ Judge of the Circuit Court, 27th Judicial Circuit: Republican Robert R. McCallen III.

■ Prosecuting Attorney, 27th Judicial Circuit: Republican William C. Hartley Jr.

■ Wabash County Circuit Court Clerk: Republican Lori Draper.

■ Wabash County Recorder: Republican Eric Rish.

■ Wabash County Sheriff: Republican Ryan Baker.

■ Wabash County Assessor: Republican Kelly Schenkel.

■ Wabash County Commissioner District 2: Republican Jeff Dawes and Democrat Travis Leon Hendricks.

■ Wabash County Council District 1: Republican Matthew Mize.

■ Wabash County Council District 2: Republican Barbara Pearson.

■ Wabash County Council District 3: Republican Sam Hann.

■ Wabash County Council District 4: Republican Kyle Bowman.

■ Chester Township Trustee: Republican Becca Melton.

■ Lagro Township Trustee: Republican Andrew DeLong.

■ Liberty Township Trustee: Republican Debra Dale.

■ Noble Township Trustee: Republican Lori Harnish.

■ Paw Paw Township Trustee: Republican Ashley Cordes.

■ Pleasant Township Trustee: Democrat Rebecca (Becky) Ann Warmuth.

■ Waltz Township Trustee: Republican Michael Ruse.

■ Chester Township Board Member: Republican Chad West.

■ Lagro Township Board Member: Republicans Gary Hunter Sr. and Beth E. Gillespie.

■ Liberty Township Board Member: Republicans Jon Gillespie, Patricia Godfrey and Ron Huston.

■ Noble Township Board Member: Republicans William Plummer, Brenda Hegel and Steve Kirtlan.

■ Paw Paw Township Board Member: Republicans Brian D. Baker, Mike Schuler and Scott Dawes.

■ Pleasant Township Board Member: Republicans Stan Bagley, David M. Hawkins and Marthene Burnau.

■ Waltz Township Board Member: Republicans Megan L. Henderson, Tim Drake and Lyman Lee Smith.

■ Republican State Convention Delegate: Matthew N. Burlingame, William (Alex) Downard, Lori Draper, Mark Draper, Bobi K. Gephart, Nathaniel J. Gephart, Amanda F. Hann, Sam Hann, William (Bill) Konyha, Nicholas J. Kopkey, Jennifer Long-Dillon, Russell Reahard, David G. Roe, Nancelyn (Nan) Roe and Lorissa Sweet.

■ Democratic State Convention Delegate: Travis L. Hendricks, Tammy L. (Tammy) Ingalls and Jeffrey J. Thompson.

■ Democrat Precinct Committeeman, Noble 4: Teresa S. Kattau.

■ Democrat Precinct Committeeman, Noble 4: Chad Harris.

■ Democrat Precinct Committeeman, Waltz: Tammy L. (Tammy) Ingalls.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

BELTONE'S SPRING HEARING EVENT**Hearing Loss Makes Your Brain Work Harder**

If you are struggling to hear, you don't just miss a few sounds here or there. New research shows that adults with hearing loss experience a 40% faster decline in cognitive abilities. This suggests that the entire brain may be struggling to fill in the gaps caused by untreated hearing loss.

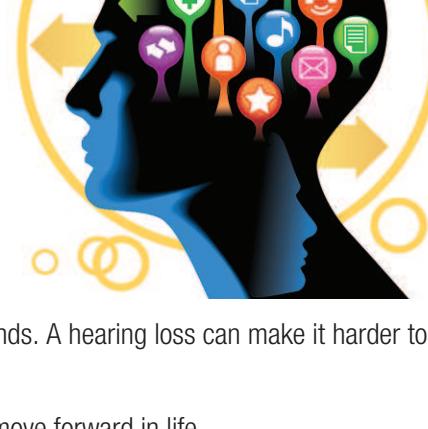
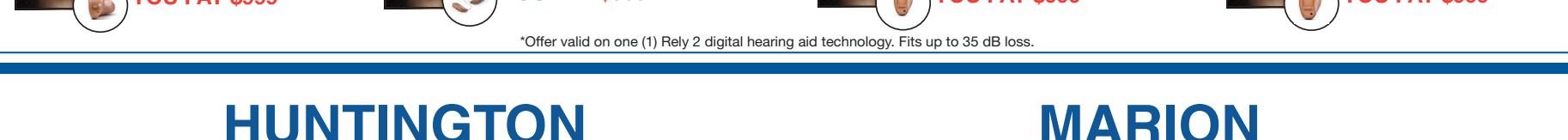
Thankfully, research is showing that when hearing loss is detected early and treated with hearing aids, the brain can reorganize itself back to its usual operation. With hearing aids, you're not only taking care of your hearing and your relationships, but you have the potential, because of the auditory stimulation, to provide benefit for your brain health. Hearing loss is not just about your ears.

You may think the simple solution is to just turn the TV louder or ask your kids or grandkids to speak up, but even a mild hearing loss can affect you in countless ways. If your hearing is at all impaired, your brain must work harder, trying to make out words and sounds. A hearing loss can make it harder to interact in social situations, to spend time with family, or to be productive at work.

THE SOLUTION: Resolve to schedule a free hearing screening. It's quick, easy, and will provide you with the information you need to move forward in life.

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